

Amendments to the Drawings:

The drawing sheets attached in connection with the above-identified application containing Figures 2, 5A, 5B, and 6 are being presented as new formal drawing sheets to be substituted for the previously submitted drawing sheets. The drawing Figures 2, 5B and 6 have been amended. Appended to this amendment is an annotated copy of the previous drawing sheets which have been marked to show changes presented in the replacement sheets of the drawing.

The specific changes which have been made to Figure 2 has been to label the Document Management Database with the reference numeral "20". The specific changes which have been made to Figures 5B and 6 have been amended to correct the misspelling of "related".

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 11, 18, 19, 34, 41 and 42 have been amended to be in independent form without changing their scope. Claims 1-10, 15-17, 24-33 and 38-40 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added.

After the above mentioned amendments, claims 11-14, 18-23, 34-37 and 41-46 are pending.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Office Action indicates that the information disclosure statement submitted on October 24, 2003 is considered by the examiner. The Office Action, however, did not include a copy of the Form PTO/SB/08 submitted with the IDS indicating that the Examiner had considered the reference listed on the Form PTO/SB/08. Applicant respectfully requests that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

Drawings

The drawings were objected to. Figure 2 has been amended to label the Document Management Database with the reference numeral "20". Figures 5B and 6 have been amended to correct the misspelling of "related". Accordingly, applicant submits that the objection to the drawings has been overcome.

Allowable subject matter

Applicant appreciates the indication that claims 19-23 and 42-46 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 19 and 42 have been amended to be in independent form, and thus are now in *prima facie* condition for allowance. Claims 20-23 and 43-46 ultimately depend from claims 19 and 42, respectively, and thus are likewise in *prima facie* condition for allowance.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1-2 and 24-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,897,643 to Matsumoto (“Matsumoto ‘643”). Claims 3-8, 10, 15-17, 26-31, 33 and 38-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsumoto ‘643. Claims 9 and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsumoto ‘643 in view of U.S. PGPub 2002/0114013 to Hyakutake et al. (“Hyakutake”). Claims 11-14 and 34-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsumoto ‘643 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,819,806 to Kubota et al (“Kubota”). Claims 18 and 41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsumoto ‘643 in view of U.S. PGPub 2001/0003819 to Matsumoto et al. (“Matsumoto ‘819”). Insofar as these amendments can be applied to the claims as amended, applicant respectfully traverses for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 11 is directed to a method of managing documents, and recites a number of steps including “translating the first document to create a second document having a second style different from the first style, wherein the step of translating the first document to create the second document includes printing a copy of the first document onto a medium to create the second document”, “modifying the medium of the second document”, “scanning the modified medium to translate the second document to create a third document having a third style different from the second style” and “comparing the first document and the third document and determining that the medium has been modified.” Thus, in claim 11, the first document is compared to the third document to determine if the medium of the second document has been modified, where the third document is created by scanning a modified medium of the second document, which in turn has been created by translating the first document. The references cited in the rejection of the claims do not suggest this combination of feature of claim 11.

The Office Action on page 13 recognizes that Matsumoto ‘643 fails to disclose comparing the first document to the third document and determining if the medium has been modified, but relies on Kubota for disclosing this feature. Applicant submits that Kubota fails to cure the deficiencies of Matsumoto ‘643.

Kubota discloses creating an output document based on an input document where an extracted part of the input document is copied to the output document. Kubota further discloses in FIG. 6 an operation of returning the modified document back to the original document (col. 4, lines 18-20). In step 13 document control information of the original document is compared with document control information of the extracted document, and document control information of the extracted document is corrected (col. 4, lines 44-50).

Kubota, however, merely compares an extracted document with the original document from which the extraction occurred. Kubota fails to disclose any intermediate document, the medium of which has been modified, between the original document and the extracted document. Thus, Kubota fails to disclose comparing a first document to a third document to determine if a medium of an intermediate second document has been modified, where the third document is created by scanning a modified medium of the second document, which has been created by translating the first document. In other words, Kubota fails to disclose or suggest the intermediate second document as recited, where the medium of the second document is modified, and where the first document is compared to the third document. Thus, even if there were motivation to combine Matsumoto '643 and Kubota, the combination would not meet the limitations of claim 11.

Independent claim 18 is also directed to a method of managing documents, and recites a number of steps including: "translating the first document to create a second document having a second style different from the first style; . . . associating with a first user creating the first document, a first authority level and a second authority level; associating with a second user creating the second document, the first authority level; wherein the first and second authority levels grant access to related information of the first and second documents in the related information table; and wherein the first authority level grants access to related information of the second document in the related information table, but not access to related information of the first document in the related information table." The references cited in the rejection of the claims do not suggest this combination of features of claim 18.

The Office Action on page 16 recognizes that Matsumoto '643 fails to disclose the steps in claim 18 relating to the authority levels, but relies on Matsumoto '819 for disclosing

this feature. Applicant submits that Matsumoto '819 fails to cure the deficiencies of Matsumoto '643.

While Matsumoto '819 discloses setting access authority information in a document, Matsumoto '819 makes no suggestion of setting two levels of authority, where the first and second authority levels grant access to related information of first and second documents, the second document translated from the first, but the first authority level only grants access to related information of the second document, not the first document. In other words, Matsumoto '819 fails to disclose setting two levels of authority with respect to documents, much less with respect to two documents where one is translated from the other. Thus, even if Matsumoto '643 were modified based on Matsumoto '819, the resultant would not suggest the features of claim 18.

Independent claims 34 and 41 are directed to a system and include features corresponding to those discussed with respect to claims 11 and 18, respectively. Thus, claims 34 and 41 are patentable for reasons analogous to claims 11 and 18, respectively.

The pending dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as their respective independent claims, as well as for further patentable features recited therein.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

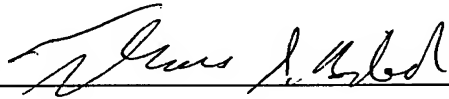
The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of

papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R.
§1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date December 21, 2005

By 

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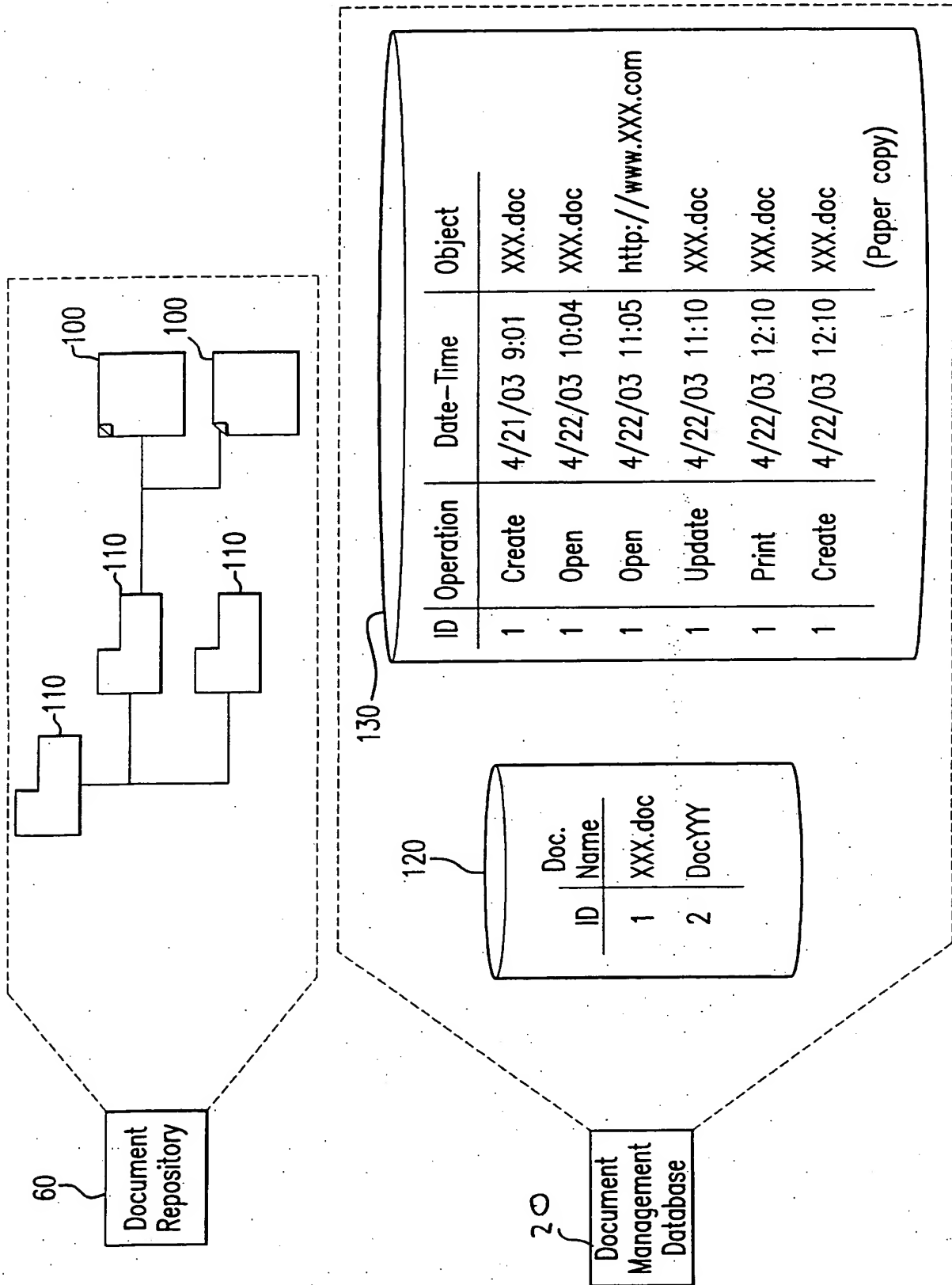


FIG. 2

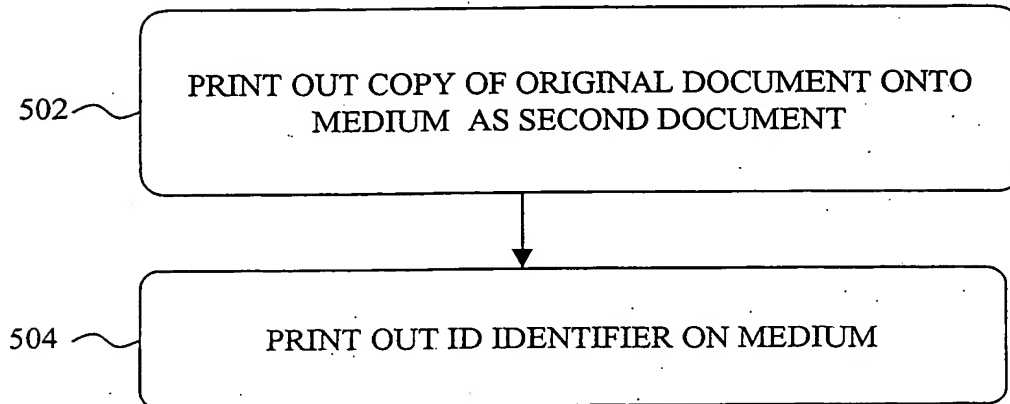
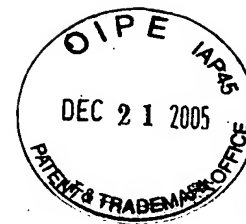
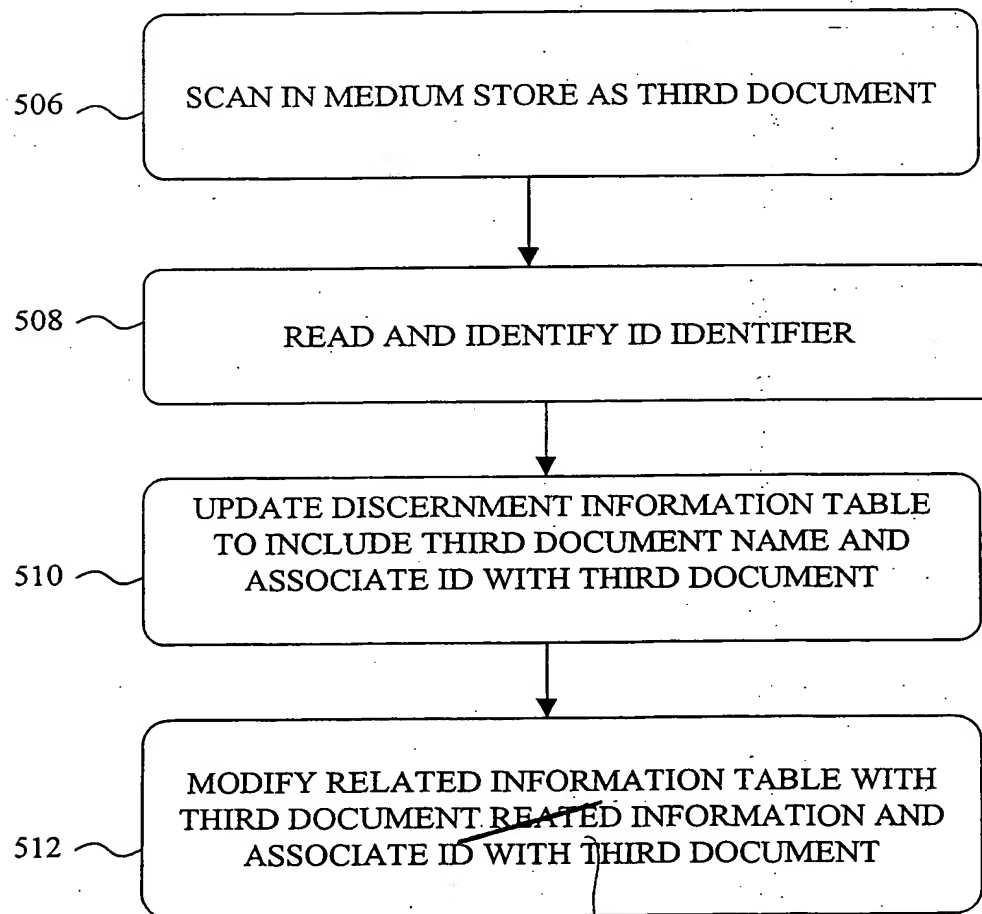


FIG. 5A



RELATED

FIG. 5B

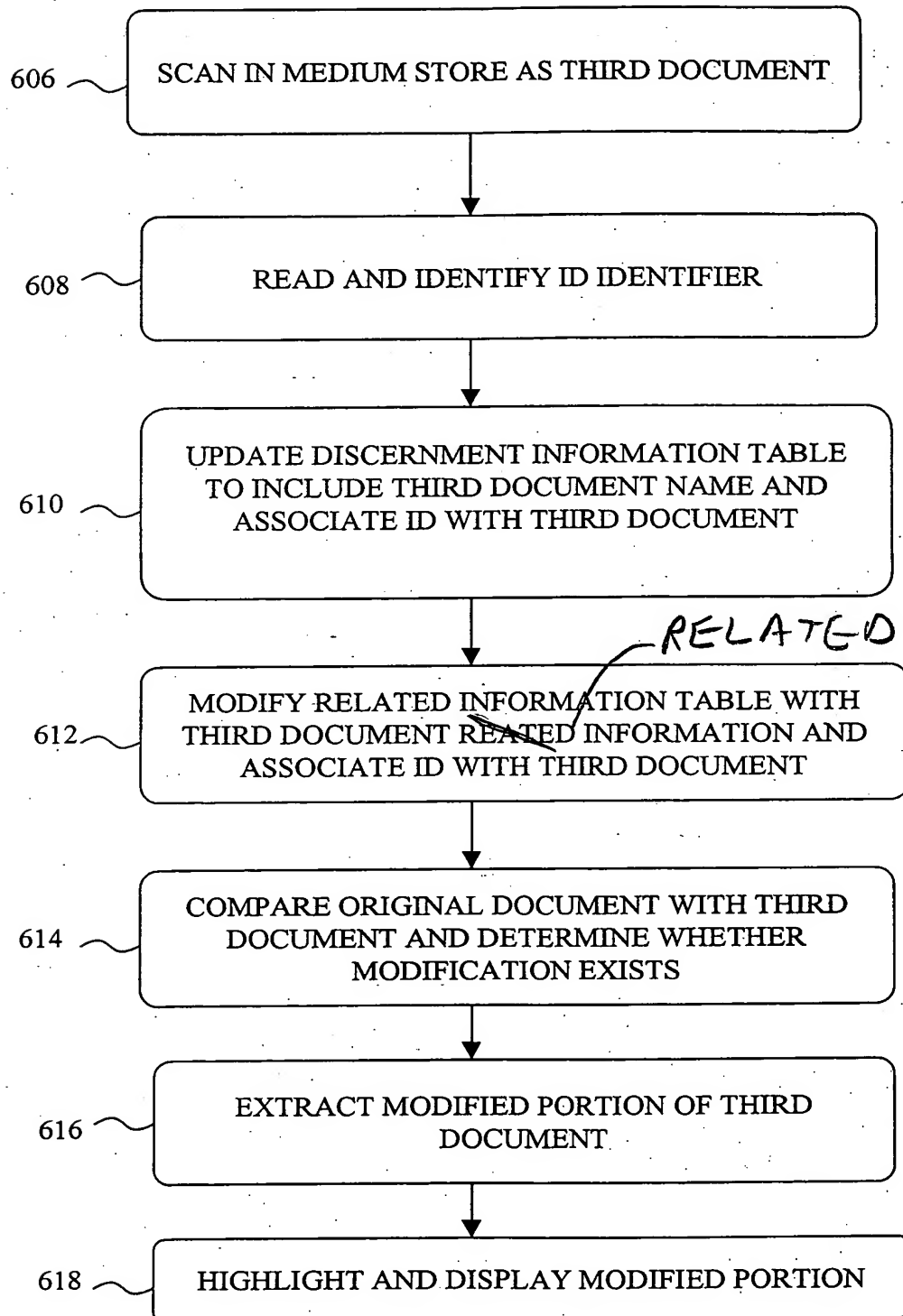


FIG. 6